

THE HUMBLE PETITION

OF

The Gentry, Ministers, and Free-
holders of the County of York, assem-
bled at the Affizes there holden ;

Presented to His MAJESTIE the fifth
of April. 1642.

With His Majesties SPEECH at the
presenting thereof.

Together with His Majesties gracious
Answer thereunto, April 7. 1642.



LONDON:

Printed by ROBERT BARKER, Printer to
the Kings most Excellent Majestic: And by
the Assignes of JOHN BILL.
MDCXLII.

THE
BITION

TO THE
BITION

TO THE
BITION

TO THE
BITION

TO THE
BITION

TO THE
BITION

TO THE
BITION

TO THE
BITION

TO THE
BITION



To the KINGS most Excellent
M A J E S T Y

The humble Petition of the Gentry, Ministers,
and Freeholders of the County of *York*, now
assembled at the Assizes there holden,

Most humbly sheweth,

THat, although the piercing anguish of our
souls, proceeding from the generall di-
stractions of this Kingdom, be eased by
the comfort of Your Majesties Royall
Presence, and gracious Confidence in the
Affections of this County, which hath filled our
hearts with hopes, and our tongues with joy, yet the
fellow-feeling of the passionate sorrows, and heart-
breaking apprehensions which overwhelms the other
parts of this afflicted Kingdom, do enforce us (after
the humble tender of our Lives and Fortunes, for the
safety and assurance of Your Majesties Royall Per-
son, Crown, Honour and Estate, just Prerogative and
Soveraignty, in any capacity wherein we may serve
Your Majesty according to the Laws) to follow that
Sacrifice of bounden duty, with our earnest Prayers
and Petitions, which shall not cry in Your Princely
Ears for help to almost-ruined Ireland, nor implore
Your Majesties Concurrence for the propagation of
the Protestant Religion, and suppression of Popery,

Since Your Majesties gracious Declaration of Your Self, in those particulars, renders it an unpardonable crime to desire further Assurance, or addition to Your Majesties own words, Sacred before God and Man; But emboldened by Your Royall resolution declared, to take away, not onely the just fears, but also the Jealousies of Your loyall Subjects, and inforced by that infallible Oracle of Truth, That a Kingdom divided cannot stand; We, from the centre of every one of our hearts, most earnestly supplicate, That Your Majesty (being most interested in the flourishing State and Union of Your Dominions, and by long experience in Government, best acquainted with prevention of Dangers, and remedy of Evils) will be graciously pleased to declare such fit Means and Expedients as may take away all Distances and Misunderstandings betwixt Your Majestie and Your great Councell; to whom we will also addresse our selves for such endeavours, on their parts as may beget in Your Majesty a confidence in their Counsels, and that blessed Union so necessary to this perplexed Kingdom, and most desired by us, and all Your Majesties loving and faithfull Subjects.

And your Petitioners shall ever pray for your Majesties long and prosperous Reign, &c.

His

5^o Aprilis, 1642.

His Majesties Speech to the Sheriffe, Gentry, Ministry, and Freeholders of the County of YORK, when they presented to Him their Petition.

Master Sheriffe, and Gentlemen,

Beleeve you expect not a present and particular answer to your Petition, because it is new to me; Onely in generall I must tell you, That I see by it, that I am not deceived in the Confidence I have in the Affections of this County to my Person and State; and I assure you that I will not deceive your Confidence, which at this time you have declared in your Petition to have in me: And I am glad to see that it is not upon mistaken grounds, as other Petitions have been to me since I came to this place; Concerning which, let me observe unto you, That my Answers were to cleer those mistakings; for I never did go about to punish or discourage them from petitioning to me in an humble way, though the subject did not agree with my sense; Albeit within the memory of man, people have been discouraged, and threatned to be punished for Petitions.

I observe that your Petition is so modest, that it doth not mention any particular for your own good; which indeed I expected, as knowing that in some particulars you have great reason to do; and therefore, that you may not fare the worse for your modestie, I will put you in minde of three particulars, which I conceive to be for the good of this Countrey.

The first is concerning your trained Bands, to reduce them to a lesser number, for which, I confesse to stand engaged by promise to you, which I had performed long since, if I had

been put in minde of it: And now I tell you, Shew me but the way, and (when you shall think fit) I shall instantly reduce them to that number, which I promised you two years ago.

The second is, That which is owing to this County for Billet-money; The truth is, That for the present I cannot repay it, Onely I will say this, That if all the water had gone to the right Mill (upon my word) you had been long ago satisfied in this particular. And so I leave to your discretions which way you will advise, and assist me to comply with the engagements to you in this point.

The third is, That for which I was petitioned as I came up the last year, both by the Lord Major and Aldermen of this Citie, and likewise by divers others of this Countie, as I went South-ward; And that is, concerning the Court of *Tork*. And first let me tell you, That as yet I know no legall dissolution of it, for hitherto formally there is nothing come to me, either directly or indirectly, for the taking of it away: therefore I may say, It is rather shaken in pieces, then dissolved. Now my desire is, in compli-
 ance to what I answered the last yeer unto the severall Petitions delivered to me upon this subject, That you would consult and agree among your selves in what manner you would have the Court established most to your own contentments, and to the good of all these Northern parts, in such a legall way, as that it may not justly be excepted against; and I assure you, in the word of an honest Man, that you shall not blame me, if you have not full satisfaction in it.

Within a day or two ye shall have a particular Answer to your Petition, which shall be such an one as I am confident will give you good satisfaction, and put you into such a way, as, I hope, may produce good effects to the good of all this Kingdom.

His



His Majesties Answer

To the aforesaid Petition of the Gentry, Ministers,
and Freeholders of the County of York.

At the Court at York, 7. Aprilis 1642.

His Majestic, according to His Promise made to you at the delivery of this Petition, hath commanded me to subscribe this His Answer.

In the first place, He is glad to see, That what you say concerning the relief of His distressed Subjects in Ireland, and the propagation of the true Religion amongst us, against all Superstition of Popery, is owing to their confidence in His Princely Word; wherein He again hath commanded me to assure you, That He will neither deceive your trust, nor wrong Himself so much, as not to be very punctuall in performance of the Engagements He hath already made concerning those particulars, which besides the performance of His Word (which He holds most dear unto Him) His own inclinations naturally induce Him unto.

Noto

Now concerning the Prayer of your Petition, His Majesty doth graciously interpret, That your desiring Him to declare such fit means and expedients as may take away all Distance and Misunderstandings betwixt His Majesty and His great Councell, is no otherwise then to have the more Authentique ground, and the better direction which way to carry your selves in your Addresses to the Parliament for that effect. And therefore His Majesty assures you, That not onely the best, but (as He conceives) the sole way for this good understanding between His Majesty and His Parliament (which He assures you that He no lesse desires then your selves) is, That the Parliament will take His Majesties Message of the twentieth of January last into consideration speedily, seriously, and effectually; and that the Militia of this Kingdom may be settled by Act of Parliament, according to His Majesties explanation of His Answer concerning the Militia, which He made in the Answer He returned to both Houses, upon the Petition presented to Him the 26. of March last. And therefore His Majesty desires you, to take those Answers and that Message into your serious consideration, and thereupon to proceed (according to the intimation in your Petition) in your Addresses to the Parliament, as you shall judge fittest for the good of this Kingdom, and the expressions of your Duty and Affection to His Majesties Person and State.

Signed by Master Secretary Nicholas

F I N I S

**L
E
P
R
E
S
B
Y
T
E
R
I
A
N**